the other, the public distribution system has collapsed. According to official figures, the wholesale price index has risen by 13% in the last eight weeks. I have collected the prices of 21 items marketed by multinationals and big traders. Topaz blades available for Rs. 3.75 during the pre-budget period is now selling at Rs. 4.50. Similarly, the price of Surf has increased from Rs. 31.50 to Rs. 36.50 and the price of washing soap from Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 15.00.

So these are the figures. On one side is the price rise which has adversely affected the poor man and those with fixed income and on the other side, 3000 out of 3610 fair price shops in Delhi have no stocks of wheat and rice and sugar is being sold at inflated rates. When enquiries were made, it was told that F.C.I. employees had started a work-to-rule agitation. The consequences of such agitations have to be borne by the citizens of Delhi. The fair-price shop-owners have deposited their drafts one month ago but they have not received any stock till now. The Hon. Prime Minister says that the public distribution system is being strengthened, but in the capital city of India 3000 of the 3600 shops have run out of rations. And festival time is approaching. I request the hon. Minister of Civil Supples to attend to this matter on a priority basis and take steps to control the price-rise. The ruling party had promised to bring down prices within 100 days, but the prices instead of coming down have risen. I request for replenishment of stocks at the fair-price shops and strengthening of the public distribution system.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, ever since the last Lok Sabha elections were held, the atrocities on Adivasis have increased. They are being exploited much more now and their plight has become worse. Earlier this month, on 9th August, in Somakheri village of Khargone district upper caste people killed two Adivasis, burnt their dwellings and forced other Adivasis to leave the village. Police had prior information regarding this. Such incidents had occured on 7th July and 15th July also, but the Madhya Pradesh police failed to take any security measures. This has led to a feeling of resentment among all Adivasis.

Sir, I request the Government to provide security to the Adivasis in consultation with the Madhya Pradesh Government...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Ask the people from Andhra, they will tell...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: It is necessary. The atrocities on Adivasis have increased to such an extent that their very existence is in jeopardy. This calls for a statement from the leader of the House...*(Interruptions)*...Please sit down, you do not know as to what is happening there.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, earlier also when such issues were raised the hon. Home Minister has always informed the House about such incidents because this House has given due importance to the question of safety and security of Adivasis, Harijans, backward classes and minorities. I believe that this time also the hon. Minister will apprise the House of the situation after collecting the full information.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I would like to draw your attention to an important matter. The L & T take over bid would be put through today. My other colleagues will speak on the matter...

MS. SPEAKER: I am giving you permission to speak on the subject of floods.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Floods have affected northern Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh. According